

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 PM-04 COME-00

FEA-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 L-03 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 /103 W

----- 117504

R 080900Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO USERDA WASHDC

USERDA GERMANTOWN

SECSTATE WASHDC 2848

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 15193

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, JA

SUBJ: JAPANESE SALE NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT USSR

REF: TOKYO 13679

1. IN FOLLOW-UP TO PREVIOUS SERIES CONVERSATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS, K. MORI, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, JAPAN ATOMIC INDUSTRIAL FORUM, CONTACTED SCIREP FOR UPDATING ON STATUS JAPAN-SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS ON PRESUMABLY IMPENDING SALE PWR NUCLEAR COMPONENTS TO USSR.

2. MORI EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON PREVIOUSLY AGREED PLAN (REF 1) TO SEND DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON FOR BRIEFING, BUT INDICATED THAT NO REPEAT NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. INITIATIVE HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN WITH SOVIETS TO ESTABLISH TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING BUT NO WORD HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING. JAPANESE CONCERNED THAT RELATIONSHIP GETTING SHAKY AND NEGOTIATIONS MAY FALL THROUGH. JAPANESE SPECULATING THAT MIG 25 INCIDENT MAY BE INFLUENCING SOVIET ATTITUDE. AT SAME TIME THEY ARE BECOMING ACCUSTOMED TO, BUT ARE EXTREMELY UNCOMFORTABLE WITH, UNACCOUNTABLE ABERRATIONS IN SOVIET BEHAVIOR SO THEY CONFESS INABILITY TO ACCURATELY ASCERTAIN DELAY AND ADMIT IT COULD BE SIMPLY BUREAUCRATIC INERTIA.

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3. MORI'S PERSONAL INCLINATION WOULD BE TO HOLD OFF ON WASHINGTON BRIEFING UNTIL CONCLUSION OF NEXT, PRESUMABLY MORE CONCLUSIVE, USSR-JAPAN NEGOTIATING SESSION, HOWEVER, HAVING EXPRESSED HIS WILLINGNESS TO BRING BRIEFING GROUP TO WASHINGTON HE DOES NOT REPEAT NOT WISH TO APPEAR TO BE HEDGING. ACCORDINGLY, HE REQUESTS WASHINGTON TO INDICATE WHETHER A BRIEFING IS DESIRED IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE OR WHETHER IT SHOULD AWAIT CLEARER INDICATIONS OF SOVIET INTENTIONS AND A CLEARER DEFINITION OF WORK SCOPE AND ARRANGEMENTS.

4. IN A RELATED VEIN, AT PNC'S NINTH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVITIES ON OCTOBER 8, KEIDANREN PRESIDENT DOKO TALKED ABOUT RECENT BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE SOVIET UNION HE HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING. DOKO INDICATED THAT NUCLEAR POWER IS A PRIORITY ITEM IN THE CURRENT SOVIET 10 YEAR PROGRAM AND COMMENTED THAT HE DOES NOT CONSIDER SOVIET MANUFACTURING CAPABILITY TO BE ON A LEVEL WITH JAPANESE COMPETANCE. DOKO ALSO EXPRESSED HIS OPINION THAT THE HEAVY GOJ INTEREST IN AND PRESS COVERAGE OF THE MIG 25 INCIDENT IS UNNECESSARY AND MAY BE HAVING AN UNDESIRABLE INFLUENCE UPON JAPAN-USSR RELATIONSHIPS.

5. ALSO, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH VICTOR B. SPANDARIAN, THE CHIEF SOVIET TRADE REPRESENTATIVE IN TOKYO, THE ASHAI EVENING NEWS OF OCTOBER 7 REPORTS THAT SPANDARIAN WARNED THAT ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND USSR COULD FURTHER DETERIORATE, BUT IMPROVEMENT POSSIBLE ECONOMICALLY AND OTHERWISE DEPENDING ON STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY JAPAN. HE SAID GREEN LIGHT FOR ECONOMIC RELATIONS WENT ON AFTER MOSCOW TRIP IN AUGUST OF JAPANESE ECONOMIC MISSION HEADED BY DOKO, BUT SIGNAL NOW YELLOW. IF PRESENT CRISIS CONTINUES NO TELLING WHAT WILL HAPPEN. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES NOW IMPOSSIBLE FOR SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER PATOLICHEV TO MAKE SCHEDULED VISIT TO JAPAN THIS MONTH, BUT THIS COULD CHANGE. FINAL GO-AHEAD ON JAPAN SOVIET ECONOMIC COMMITTEE SCHEDULED FOR END NOVEMBER NOT YET FORTHCOMING DUE TO MIG 25 AFFAIR. ARTICLE CONTINUES IN VEIN THAT INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS RESTS WITH JAPAN.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALES, NUCLEAR REACTORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TOKYO15193
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760380-1124
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761065/aaaaceqg.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TOKYO 13679
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE SALE NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT USSR
TAGS: TECH, JA, UR
To: ERDA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006